

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06754 302304Z

70

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3279

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6754

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJ: GULF OF SUEZ ISSUE--SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ALLON

REF: (A) STATE 231698, (B) TEL AVIV 6095, (C) TEL AVIV 6261,
(D) TEL AVIV 6112, (E) TEL AVIV 6215, (F) TEL AVIV 6662

1. I WOULD EXPECT THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY ON THE GULF OF SUEZ PROBLEM, ALLON WILL HOLD GENERALLY TO THE POSITION TAKEN BY DINITZ/EVRON DURING THEIR MEETINGS EARLIER THIS MONTH. ANY PROSPECT OF A MORE CONCILIATORY APPROACH WAS PROBABLY ELIMINATED BY THE LEAKING OF THE ROSENNE REPORT. PUBLICATION OF THIS REPORT HAS EMBARRASSED RABIN AND HAS STRENGTHENED THE HAND OF THOSE MINISTERS--LED BY PERES AND INCLUDING ALLON--WHO CONSIDER THIS A MAJOR ISSUE WITH IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS.

2. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE, ALLON MAINTAINED IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH ME THAT THE ARGUMENT IS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT AND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THAT FRAMEWORK (REF B). PERES HAS RECENTLY TAKEN THE SAME LINE IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. LEGAL ADVISOR ROSENNE'S FINDINGS ARE BEING INTERPRETED IN THE PRESS AS SUPPORTING THIS VIEW; HIS REVELATION OF THE BOYCOTT PROVISION IN THE AMOCO CONCESSION HAS FURTHER POISONED THE ATMOSPHERE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SHOULD NOT RELY EXCESSIVELY ON ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH US

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ON THIS ISSUE. ALLON, IN FACT, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES

ISRAEL WOULD BE IN A STRONGER POSITION IN ANY PUBLIC
CONFRONTATION.

3. ALLON, NEVERTHELESS, WOULD LIKE TO FIND A COMPROMISE
SOLUTION AND PRESUMABLY WILL HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FROM RABIN TO
WORK TO THAT END. AS FOR TERMS, I DOUBT THAT WE CAN HOPE TO
ACHIEVE MORE THAN AN EVRON-TYPE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY AMOCO IS
PERMITTED TO DRILL AT 304.1 WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT REQUESTS
FOR FURTHER DRILLING BEYOND THE MEDIAN LINE WILL BE SUBJECT
OF DISCUSSION AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT.
TOON

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